

Washington, DC. It didn't matter whether you knew Marla. She would come up to you and you would feel as if you had known her for a lifetime.

She treated every conversation as a chance to tell you about the righteousness of her cause, and she treated everyone with the same respect, openness, and unconditional love.

We so often hear:

And now three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

My office was flooded today with e-mails and phone calls from the people whose lives were touched by Marla's faith, hope, and love. Everyone has a story to tell, and I brought a few photos to share with you because words are not enough.

In this photo she sent hours before her death, we see her holding tightly an Iraqi child who was thrown from a vehicle just before it was blown up in a rocket attack. The child's entire family was killed. Marla saved that child.

Here we see one of the countless civilians brutally injured and now beaming and healthy next to the person, Marla, who helped her heal.

We see Marla's trusted Iraqi colleague, Faiz, whom she wrote, "was sent to me by angels from the sky." He worked tirelessly beside her, and he died bravely beside her.

And we see this beautiful, vibrant, young woman, red scarf around her neck, surrounded by the soldiers she befriended and entreated in her quest to help Iraqi civilians. Senator LEAHY made the point that everyone wanted to help Marla—everyone. The U.S. military wanted to make up for the damage that was caused. They desperately wanted to do that, but they needed someone who could give them accurate information, and she did that.

Inside the green zone—

One friend wrote last night—she would encourage military officers and U.S. officials to hug each other—just to remember that they were still human, and reward them with a big smile if they actually did it.

There are many other pictures that her friends wanted to share of a woman who was a great friend to all and a beloved Ambassador for the United States at a time when our actions may not be so popular.

There were images of the notes she sent, when their spirits were at their lowest, telling them how beautiful they are, how much their work mattered, how much she cared.

I think we are going to leave this picture up because it is exquisite. There are other pictures of Marla sleeping on the floor for nights on end so she could use her limited resources to help Iraqi victims. Behind her happy-go-lucky demeanor, there was a picture of an effective advocate cornering a Defense Secretary, a general, or, yes, a U.S. Senator, and refusing to go away until our country helped care for the innocent victims of war.

There was a picture of the room full of journalists waiting that last night

for their host to show up for another party she had planned to buoy their spirits, and no doubt try to persuade them to write about the victims she saw suffering terrible damage—not collateral damage but critical damage.

A few days before she died, Marla wrote her own op-ed for the Washington Post. She talked about her most recent discovery—that the U.S. military was counting Iraqi civilian casualties in some places, despite its claims to the contrary. She ended with these words:

... To me, each number is a story of someone whose hopes, dreams, and potential will never be realized, and who left behind a family.

The same can be said of Marla. Her hopes, her dreams, and her potential will never be realized, and she left behind a family. In all the years I have lived, I do not know too many people who have made an impact the way she has in those 28 short years. But I guarantee you, if Marla were here, she would not want us to weep, she would not want us to hide our heads. She would want us to keep fighting for the people and causes she had championed even before she was old enough to drive a car. She would want us to remember the words of encouragement and action she sent constantly to friends and colleagues. Once she wrote, "Their tragedies are my responsibilities," and now her work must be ours.

I hope a message goes out to the suicide bombers to stop what they are doing, to stop it now, and to those who would put together these roadside bombs to stop it now because everyone who is injured by this—everyone—has hopes and dreams and families and potential.

So her work must be ours. She was the voice of these victims to whom no one seems to pay much attention. We need to be her voice now.

"And now these three remain: Faith, hope and love: But the greatest of these is love."

Mr. President, may we join the grieving Ruzicka family and thousands around the world in paying tribute to a young woman of great faith, hope, and love by finishing the work she so courageously began and by working to make sure this war will soon come to an end.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mrs. LINCOLN. First, I commend my colleagues from California and Vermont for recognizing such a remarkable woman, someone who represents everything that is good and peaceful about America and who set an example in such a tumultuous time and place but clearly giving all of the love she had to give at a time when it was needed the most. I thank my colleagues for taking the time to recognize that.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to lay aside the

pending amendment, and I call up amendment No. 481.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arkansas [Mrs. LINCOLN] proposes an amendment numbered 481.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the accumulation of leave by members of the National Guard)

On page 169, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

ACCUMULATION OF LEAVE BY MEMBERS OF THE  
NATIONAL GUARD

SEC. 1122. Section 701(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "In the case of a member of the Army National Guard of the United States or the Air National Guard of the United States who serves on active duty for more than 179 consecutive days, full-time training or other full-time duty performed by such member during the 5-year period ending on the 180th day of such service under a provision of law referred to in the preceding sentence, while such member was in the status as a member of the National Guard, and for which such member was entitled to pay, is active service for the purposes of this section."

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise today to offer an amendment of great importance to the returning guardsmen and reservists in my home State and in many other States. I think many of my colleagues, in understanding what I am trying to do, will agree that it is the right approach and the right thing to do for the men and women from our States who have done such an incredible job serving our Nation in Iraq and on behalf of not just Americans but the Iraqi people.

When our soldiers return home, some of them are finding they might only have a week or less before they are expected to reenter the workforce and return to civilian life. It is confusing at best to know with what they are going to be faced. The price of gasoline has gone up tremendously since they deployed almost 2 years ago. They have seen a lot of changes in their communities, perhaps changes in their work, changes in their families, the loss of loved ones, certainly the growing of their little biddies. But many of the soldiers of Arkansas's 39th Infantry Brigade found they had absolutely no leave left when they returned to our home State of Arkansas. This left them with very few options other than to return to work immediately or, in some cases, to begin looking for work immediately, within a week of when they returned to their home soil.

These soldiers had just spent nearly 18 months in Iraq, risking their lives to defend the freedoms we cherish as Americans. They witnessed scenes of tragedy and violence they never expected to encounter but willingly accepted as part of their mission in service of this great Nation. It is part of